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**PREPARATION OF GLASS BODY**

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**ABSTRACT**

**PURPOSE:** To prepare a glass body having a desired shape by charging a sol consisting essentially of a metal alkoxide in a vessel prepared by combining a shell mold having an optional shape with a freely attachable and detachable core having an optional shape, gelling the sol to a desired shape, detaching the gel thereafter, and drying and sintering the gel.

**CONSTITUTION:** A mixture of fine pulvererous silica with acid hydrolyzate liquid of silicon alkoxide as starting sol for sol-gel method is charged to a vessel constructed by combining a shell mold 1 (e.g. a mold made of poly propylene) having an optional shape with a core 2 (e.g. a core made of polypropylene, having an optional shape being freely attachable and detachable, and being, if necessary, shrinkable), and the sol is gelled. The core 2 is then removed, and the gel is dried, sintered. Thus, a large sized glass body having an optional shape is obtained